

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11

OES-07 HEW-06 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05

OMB-01 DLOS-09 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00

/146 W

-----080284 221858Z /64

O 221801Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9966

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BERN

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WHO IS XF

SUBJECT: 31ST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY - DEBATE AND VOTE
ON MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION (AGENDA ITEM 3.10)

REF: GENEVA 7873

1. SUMMARY. COMMITTEE B TOOK UP DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST ITEM MAY 22 AS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS. IT COMPLETED ACTION IN FOUR UNBROKEN HOURS OF ORDERLY DEBATE BEFORE LUNCH. IT ADOPTED ARAB DRAFT RESOLUTION WITHOUT AMENDMENT, 63-21(US)-12. RESULT WAS THUS NOT SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR'S IN SPITE OF FACT THAT SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (SCE) HAD FINALLY BEEN ABLE TO CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE AND REPORT BACK TO ASSEMBLY. HIGHLIGHTS OF DEBATE AND COUNTRY UNCLASSIFIED

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VOTES FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. IN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT, DIRECTOR GENERAL (DG) MAHLER REPORTED ON AID WHO HAD PROVIDED TO PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN 1977 IN COMPLIANCE WITH VARIOUS UNGA AND WHA RESOLUTIONS; UNRWA'S REPRESENTATIVE DESCRIBED EXTENT OF UNRWA'S ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, POINTING OUT THAT IN SPITE OF FINANCIAL PROBLEMS MEDICAL SERVICES HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO SUFFER; AND SENEGALESE CHAIRMAN (WADE) OF SCE INTRODUCED COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON ITS INVESTIGATION OF HEALTH CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. WADE EXPLAINED THAT SCE HAD NOT WANTED TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN DETAILS, AND HAD CONSEQUENTLY KEPT THE SOCIETAL FRAMEWORK IN VIEW IN REACHING ITS CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. WADE THANKED ISRAELI AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR EXCELLENT COOPERATION. INDONESIA (ALSO ON SCE) ECHOED WADE'S APPRECIATION FOR GOI COOPERATION.

3. PAKISTAN THEN INTRODUCED ARAB DRAFT RESOLUTION (SEPTEL) STRESSING THAT IT WAS BASED ON HUMANITARIAN RATHER THAN POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. URGED ADOPTION BY CONSENSUS. PLO OFFICIAL OBSERVER THEN TOOK FLOOR.

SAID SCE DESERVED PRAISE BUT GOI WAS IN FACT COVERING UP AN AWFUL STATE OF AFFAIRS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ONLY SOLUTION WAS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. EGYPT NOTED THAT SCE REPORT CONFIRMED ALL THE BAD THINGS THAT ARABS HAD BEEN REPORTING TO THE ASSEMBLY FOR YEARS ABOUT CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. TWO POINTS TO STRESS IN DRAFT RESOLUTION WERE NEED FOR SCE TO CONTINUE ITS WORK AS LONG AS OCCUPATION CONTINUES, AND NEED FOR DG TO PROVIDE INCREASED HELP TO PALESTINIAN PEOPLE BY SERVING AS DIRECT CHANNEL FOR OUTSIDE FUNDS. AIM WAS HUMANITARIAN, AND RESOLUTION SHOULD BE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS.

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4. JORDAN LIKENED ISRAELI OCCUPATION TO HITLER'S
OCCUPATION OF EUROPE. GDR EXPLAINED ITS CO-SPONSORSHIP
IN TERMS OF SEARCH FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. IRAQ SAID
ALL PEACE-LOVING COUNTRIES SHOULD SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION.
CHINA SAID ISRAELI OCCUPATION WAS CARRIED OUT WITH
CONNIVANCE OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS. USSR URGED THAT
GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE BE RECONVENED, WITH PALESTINE
DULY REPRESENTED, TO ADDRESS WHOLE QUESTION. VIETNAM
ADDED ITS NAME TO CO-SPONSORS.

5. ISRAEL MADE 20-MINUTE STATEMENT. SAID SCE REPORT
DISTORTED FACTS. PROCEEDED TO GIVE MANY EXAMPLES.
SAID GOI HAD NO OBJECTION TO OUTSIDE FUNDS COMING IN TO
HELP PEOPLE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, BUT THEY WOULD
HAVE TO BE CHANNELED THROUGH "THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS"
AND NOT WHO. PLEADED FOR WHO TO STOP HURTING ITS
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CREDIBILITY BY ADOPTING RESOLUTIONS OF THIS KIND.

6. TANZANIA SAID IT WOULD SUPPORT RESOLUTION. MONGOLIA

SAID SAME. MOZAMBIQUE SAID IT KNEW THE HARM DONE BY FASCIST COLONIALIST IMPERIALISM, AND WOULD SUPPORT RESOLUTION. US STATEMENT (REFTEL) WAS MADE AT THIS POINT. MEXICO SAID IT WOULD ABSTAIN, BUT THIS DID NOT MEAN IT WAS NOT ANTICOLONIALIST.

7. SPEAKING FOR EC-9, DANISH REPRESENTATIVE SAID HIS GROUP WAS MUCH CONCERNED FOR JUST SOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. REFUGEE PROBLEM WAS SERIOUS, AND EC-9 GAVE SUPPORT THROUGH UNRWA AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. GROUP ALSO MADE ITS VOICE HEARD ON POLITICAL ASPECTS "IN APPROPRIATE FORA." WHILE WHO HAS ROLE TO PLAY IN THE AREA, AND EC-9 IS GLAD TO SEE THIS ROLE STRENGTHENED, THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION, AND THE DEBATE IT HAD PROMPTED, DID NOT APPEAR TO PROMOTE PEACE. IT WAS DANGEROUS TO USE UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AS POLITICAL PLATFORMS. THE SCE REPORT WAS NOT REFLECTED IN THE DRAFT RESOLUTION. THE RESOLUTION PREAMBLE CITED DECISIONS OF OTHER BODIES WITH WHICH MEMBERS OF EC-9 WERE NOT ALWAYS IN AGREEMENT. BODY OF RESOLUTION UNACCEPTABLY CALLED FOR CONDEMNING A MEMBER STATE OF WHO. AND IT CONTAINED IMPLIED ATTACK ON PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY (RESOLUTION'S INDIRECT REFERENCE TO ARTICLE 7). FOR THESE REASONS EC-9 WOULD VOTE AGAINST.

8. SYRIA SAID ARABS WERE NOT TRYING TO POLITICIZE WHO, BUT A STRONGER WHO ROLE WAS ESSENTIAL IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ALBANIA SUPPORTED RESOLUTION AND MADE REFERENCES TO ZIONIST PLOT AND AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. SINGAPORE SAID IT WOULD SUPPORT BUT IT HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT SOME SECTIONS. JAPAN SAID IT WOULD ABSTAIN.

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JORDAN SAID IT WAS MISLEADING TO CALL THE RESOLUTION
"POLITICAL" AS ISRAEL HAD DONE; TORTURE WAS, AFTER ALL,
A "HEALTH PROBLEM". ECUADOR SAID IT HAD WEIGHED THE
CONTENTS OF THE RESOLUTION FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIEW-
POINT AND COULD NOT SUPPORT ALL OF IT. AFTER THE VOTE
(BELOW), FINLAND, SWEDEN, CANADA AND AUSTRIA TOOK FLOOR

TO EXPLAIN THEIR NEGATIVE VOTES CHIEFLY IN TERMS OF
WHO BEING WRONG FORUM.

9. COUNTRY VOTES. OF 63 VOTES (BY SHOW OF HANDS) IN
SUPPORT OF ARAB RESOLUTION, WE HAVE SO FAR IDENTIFIED
54, AS FOLLOWS: ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANGOLA, SAUDI ARABIA,
BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BENIN, BULGARIA, CAPE VERDE, CHINA,
COLOMBIA, CONGO, CUBA, EGYPT, GABON, GAMBIA, GREECE,
GUINEA, GUINEA BISSAU, UPPER VOLTA, HUNGARY, INDIA,
INDONESIA, IRAQ, IRAN, LIBYA, JORDAN, KUWAIT, MALAYSIA,
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MAURITIUS, NIGERIA, UGANDA, PAKISTAN, POLAND,
PHILIPPINES, QATAR, SYRIA, REP KOREA, GDR, DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF KOREA, TANZANIA, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SIERRA
LEONE, SINGAPORE, SOMALIA, SUDAN, SURINAM, CHAD, CZECHO-
SLAVAKIA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, USSR, VIETNAM.

THE 21 COUNTRIES THAT OPPOSED WERE: UK, SWEDEN,
SWITZERLAND, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, NICARAGUA,
IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, AUSTRIA, AUSTRALIA,
BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, FRG, FINLAND, GUATEMALA,
FRANCE, UNITED STATES.

THE 12 COUNTRIES THAT ABSTAINED WERE: PORTUGAL, ECUADOR,
MEXICO, JAPAN, HONDURAS, GHANA, SPAIN, EL SALVADOR,
BRAZIL, CHILE, URUGUAY, THAILAND. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA07874
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780215-0945
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780534/aaaabcpl.tel
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: MILI, IS, XF, WHO
To: STATE
Type: TE
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